Phase 2 Engagement: Community Priorities and Values

Engagement Methods

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

- Community Priorities Workshop & Monroe Board Game
- Youth Engagement
- Senior Center
- Block Party
- Juneteenth
- Monroe PRIDE
- Farmer's Market

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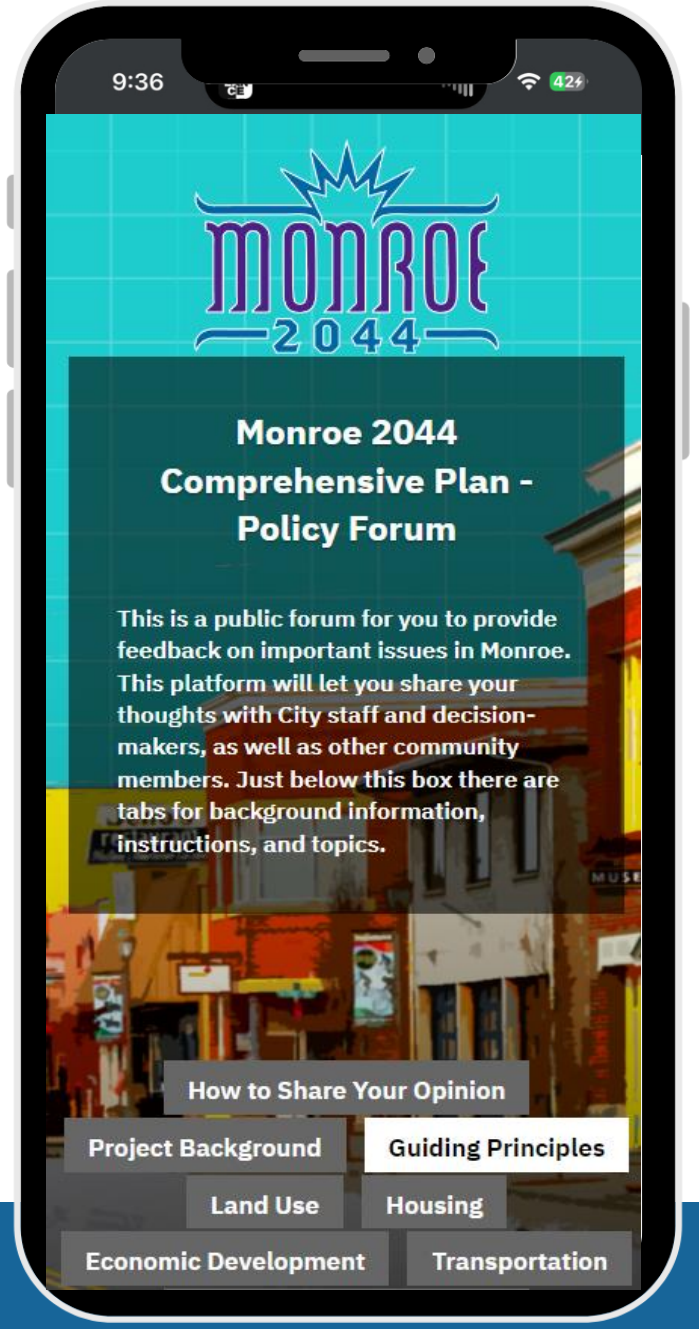
Engagement Methods

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:

- Social Media
- Project Website
- Goals and Policy Survey

37 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
522 OPINIONS SHARED
153 WRITTEN COMMENTS



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Overarching Themes

Overarching Themes

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General Themes

- **Preserve Monroe's Character:** There was a clear message about the importance of maintaining Downtown's historical character. While residents welcome new development, they want to ensure that the unique charm of the area is preserved.
  - Many residents voiced that they moved to Monroe intentionally seeking more space and lower density compared to cities like Seattle and Bellevue.
  - Residents fear of losing "small town hospitality" vibe.
  - Residents fear of displacement of current residents and local businesses.

General Themes

- **Regular Outreach and Engagement:** Feedback from the workshop and Senior Center conversations highlighted a strong interest among community members to be involved in decision-making processes. Some residents mentioned feeling disconnected or uninformed about local developments and planning concepts.
  - Increasing outreach and educational efforts will help ensure that residents are more aware and engaged in the happenings within Monroe.
  - Ensure equitable presence and attendance in the community.

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Land Use Themes

Land Use and Development

- **Downtown and N. Kelsey:** Community members see Downtown and N. Kelsey as key areas for mixed-use development. There's strong support for projects that can boost local businesses and provide more housing, but many stressed the importance of improving roads and infrastructure to manage traffic as these areas grow.
  - N. Kelsey and Lake Tye have been recognized as important areas that warrant further resource investment considerations.
- **Unsafe Areas in Monroe:** Concerns were raised about pedestrian safety and the need for adequate infrastructure in developing areas like Lake Tye, N. Kelsey, and 154th Street SE.
  - Housing near high-traffic areas is mentioned as a safety concern for pedestrians.

Land Use and Development

- **Enhancing the Development Process:** A community resident highlighted the importance of streamlining the permitting process and minimizing construction costs, noting that these factors often serve as barriers to future development.

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Housing Themes

Housing

- **Diverse Housing Options:** Participants highlighted the need for more affordable housing, particularly in areas like Chain Lake Road. They also see value in higher-density developments in Downtown, but with careful consideration to avoid displacing current residents.
- **Maintain Neighborhood Character:** There is a strong desire to protect existing neighborhoods, such as Fryelands and historic Downtown, from overdevelopment.
    - Residents emphasized that any new housing should fit the character of these areas and be supported by appropriate infrastructure.

Housing

- **Targeted Redevelopment:** Many suggested focusing on revitalizing underused areas, like certain apartment complexes, to provide more housing options while maintaining the community's integrity.
  - Monroe game players identified housing as most needed in the general downtown area, specifically on the east side, W. Main Street, and N. Kelsey.

Housing

- **Housing Subsidies and Incentives:** To enhance Monroe's housing stock, community discussions revealed that increasing the availability of homes alone may not fully address the barriers residents face in securing housing. To tackle this, implementing supplementary subsidies could be effective in encouraging development and reducing rental costs, ultimately making housing more accessible to residents.

Housing

- **Investment Senior Housing:** There is a strong demand for affordable senior housing in Monroe, particularly to help long-term residents remain in the community.
  - Current wait times for housing stretch up to 2 years, need to provide more affordable options quickly.
  - Prioritize one-level homes that are easily accessible for older residents with mobility challenges.
  - Subsidized or affordable senior housing options

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Natural Environment

Natural Environment

- **Strategic Flood Measures:** Residents expressed concerns about development near environmentally sensitive areas like Roosevelt, Chain Lake Road, and the Skykomish River. Particularly stormwater management.
- **More Nature:** There was strong support for creating new parks, such as a wetland park near Lake Tye, which could enhance environmental quality and provide additional recreational opportunities.
- **Balance Preservation with Development:** The community wants development that are low-impact to the natural environment.
    - Roosevelt is recommended for reduced development and preserve green space in the area.

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Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- **New Parks Needed:** Many participants pointed out that areas like N. Kelsey, Roosevelt, and Chain Lake Road are in need of more parks and recreational facilities, particularly as these neighborhoods grow.
    - Woods Creek is identified as an area with limited parks and recreational opportunities, similar to other areas such as Lake Tye, North Kelsey, and W. Main Street, where more recreational amenities would also be appreciated.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- **Maintaining Existing Parks:** There was also a call to maintain and upgrade existing parks like Lake Tye and Al Borlin Park to keep them safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- **Community Spaces:** Residents expressed a desire for more gathering spaces, especially in Downtown, where they can come together for events and activities.

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Transportation

Transportation

- **Traffic Management:** There were frequent concerns about traffic, particularly in areas like Chain Lake Road, US-2, SR-522, and Main Street. Many community members suggested the need for better traffic management solutions, including road extensions, improved crossings, and more public transit options.
- **Traffic Calming Measures:** Residents advocate for more traffic calming measure due to concerns of speeding or racing in neighborhoods or straight-aways.

Transportation

- **Pedestrian and Bike Infrastructure:** The community emphasized the need for more sidewalks, bike lanes, and safer crossings throughout Monroe to improve accessibility and reduce reliance on cars.
  - Concerns about unsafe sidewalks, particularly in North Kelsey and US-2, making it difficult for senior residents and those with mobility challenges to navigate safely. Community suggested a pedestrian-overpass.
  - Many who like to walk discuss how it isn't viable to go anywhere without a car, even if they want to.

Transportation

- **Public Transit:** Expanding bus routes and increasing the frequency of service were common suggestions to help connect different parts of the city and ease traffic congestion.
- **Traffic and Safety Concerns:** Concerns about excessive traffic in Monroe and the impact on emergency vehicle response times, especially when trains block major routes, raising equity and safety issues.
- **Accessible Transportation:** Need for improved transportation options for senior residents, including accessible public transit that accommodates service animals, scooters, and other mobility aids.

Transportation

- **Parking and Transit Downtown:** Desire for better parking solutions downtown, or alternative transit options to reduce the need for parking when accessing local amenities.
    - Main Street is mentioned to have limited parking availability. Suggesting alternative options slightly away from Main Street to keep it pedestrian-friendly, but still accessible.
- **Improved Connections:** Community conversations highlighted areas like Chain Lake Road, where there is a need to strengthen connections to other parts of the city and local resources.

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Employment

Employment

- **Job Creation:** There was strong support for creating more job opportunities, especially in areas like N. Kelsey and Fryelands. Residents are looking for diverse businesses that can provide employment and contribute to the local economy.
  - Healthcare services in Monroe, particularly for seniors, who often need to travel to Everett or Bellevue for care due to local doctors being overbooked or unavailable.
  - Incentives to occupy vacant storefronts on Main Street.
  - More high paying professions in Monroe.

Employment

- **Commercial Development:** Many participants want to see more commercial spaces, particularly in underserved areas, to keep local spending within Monroe and provide more options for residents.
  - Retain younger professionals
  - Increase diversity of options in Monroe.

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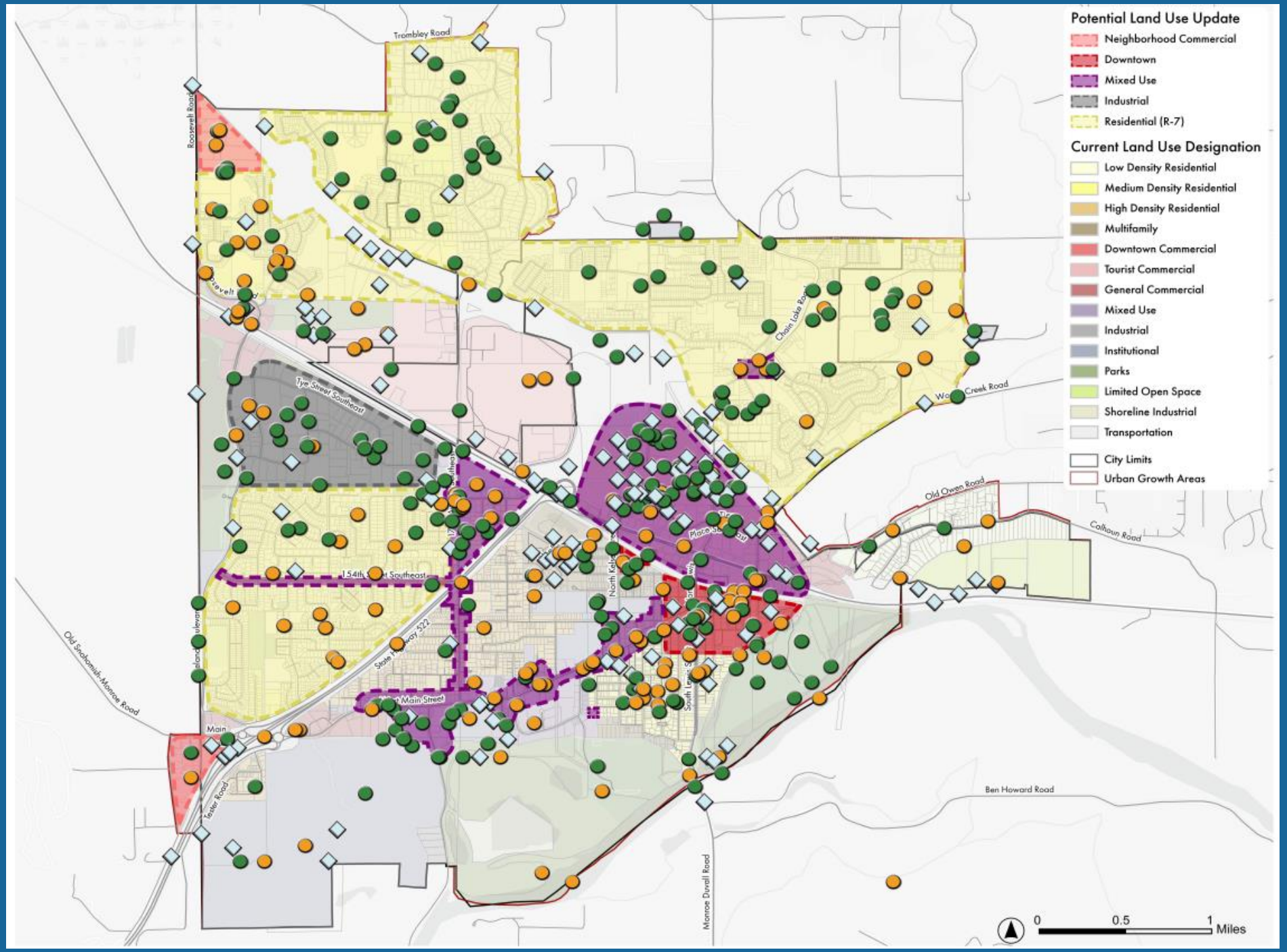
Monroe Game Board Results

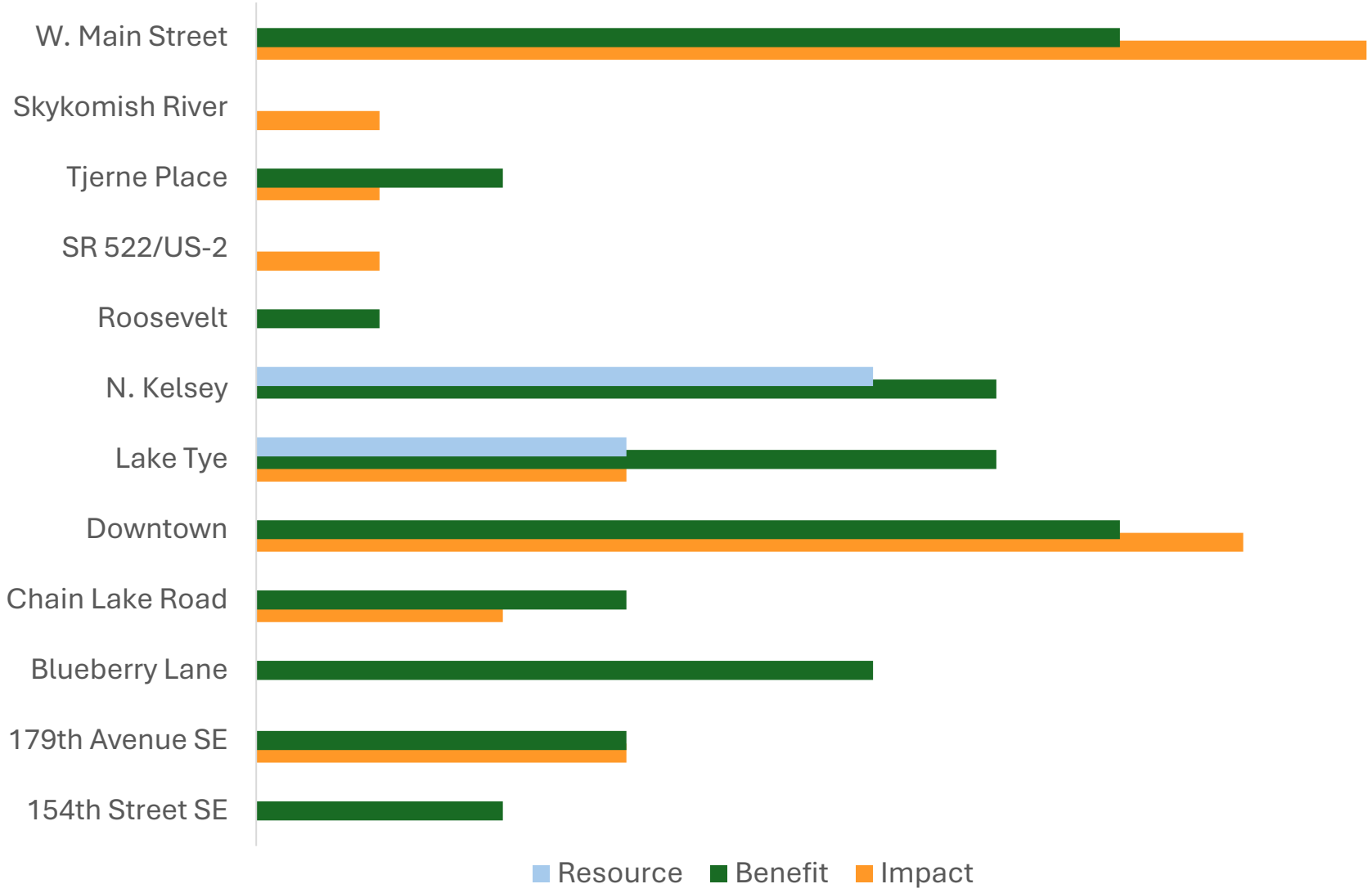
Game Board at a Glance

Resource allocation was concentrated in areas such as North Kelsey, Lake Tye, Blueberry Lane, West Main Street, Downtown, and along US-2 with some dispersedly allocated throughout the City.

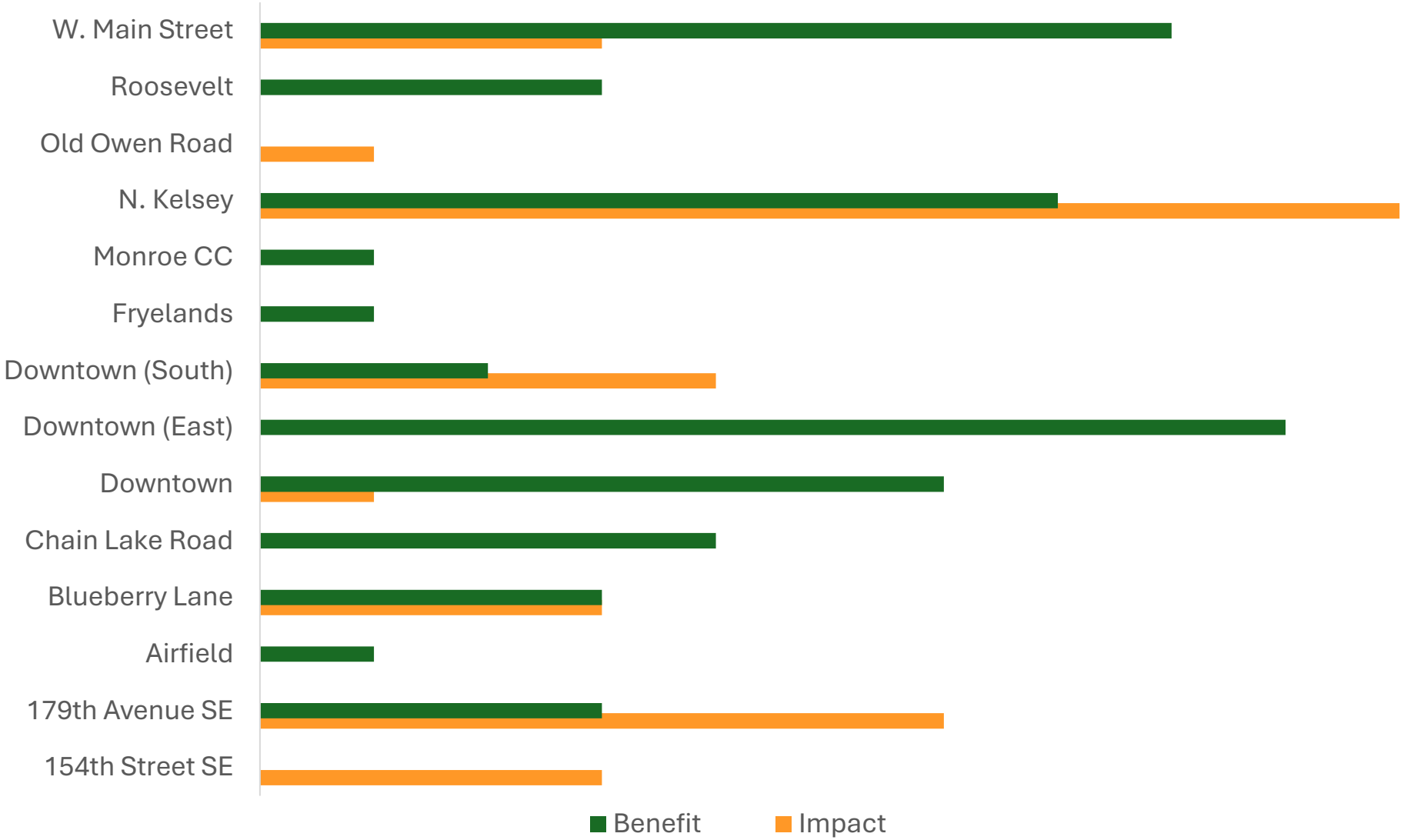
- Benefit Tokens: Contributions, Opportunities and Strengths
- Impact Tokens: Barriers and Challenges
- Resources Tokens



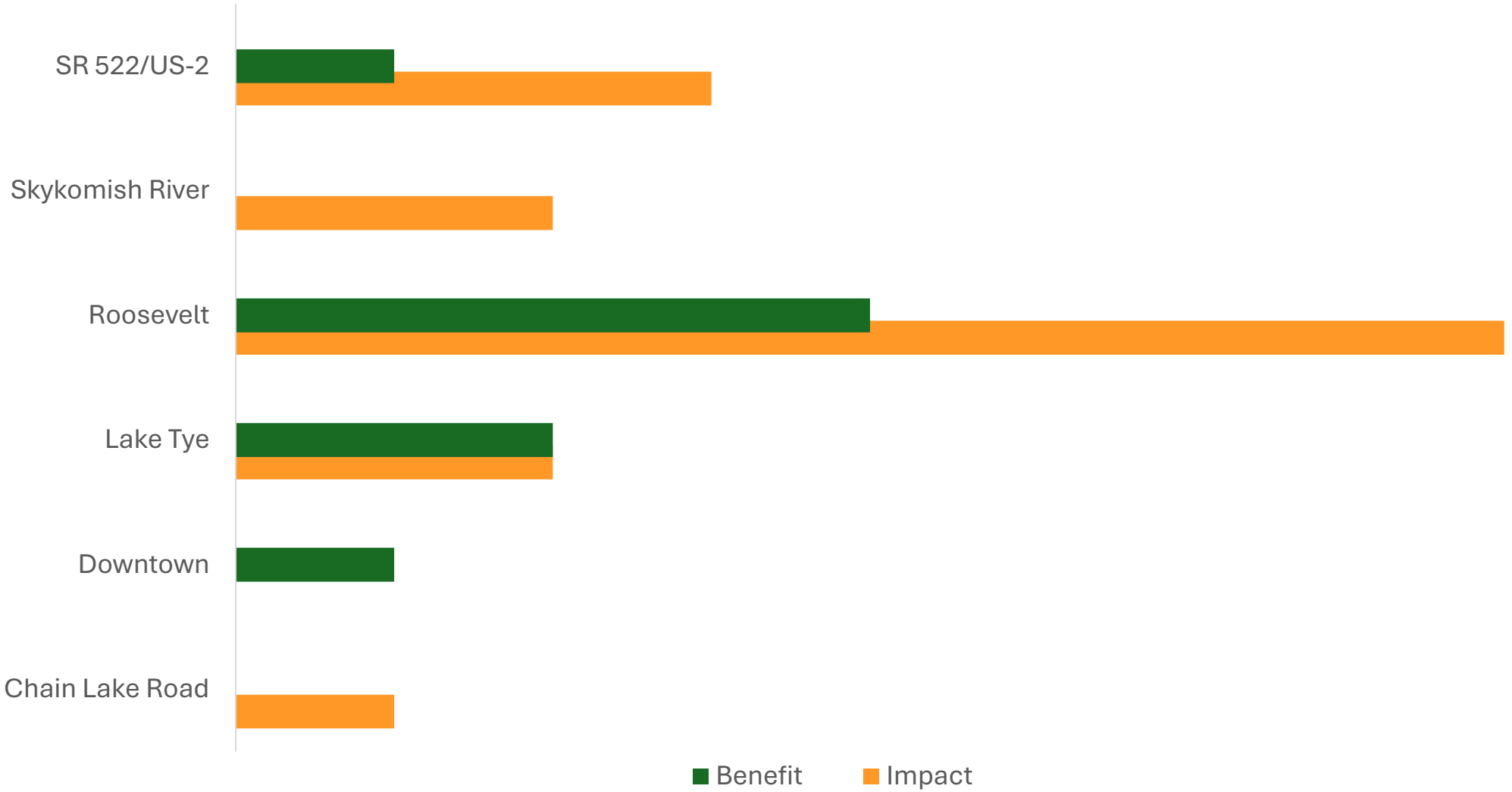
Land Use


W. Main Street
Skykomish River
Tjerne Place
SR 522/US-2
Roosevelt
N. Kelsey
Lake Tye
Downtown
Chain Lake Road
Blueberry Lane
179th Avenue SE
154th Street SE
Resource
Benefit
Impact

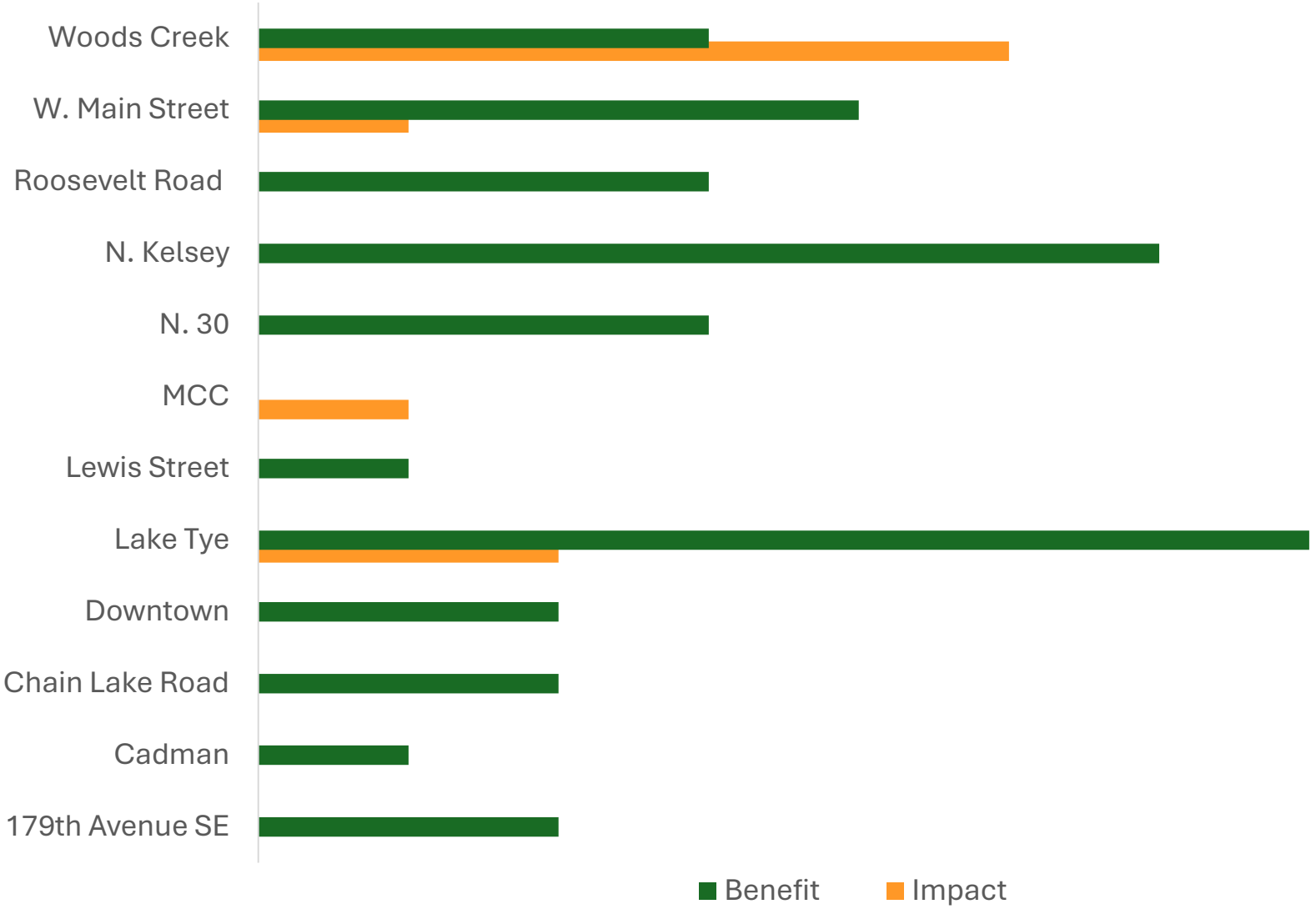
Housing


W. Main Street
Roosevelt
Old Owen Road
N. Kelsey
Monroe CC
Fryelands
Downtown (South)
Downtown (East)
Downtown
Chain Lake Road
Blueberry Lane
Airfield
179th Avenue SE
154th Street SE
Benefit
Impact

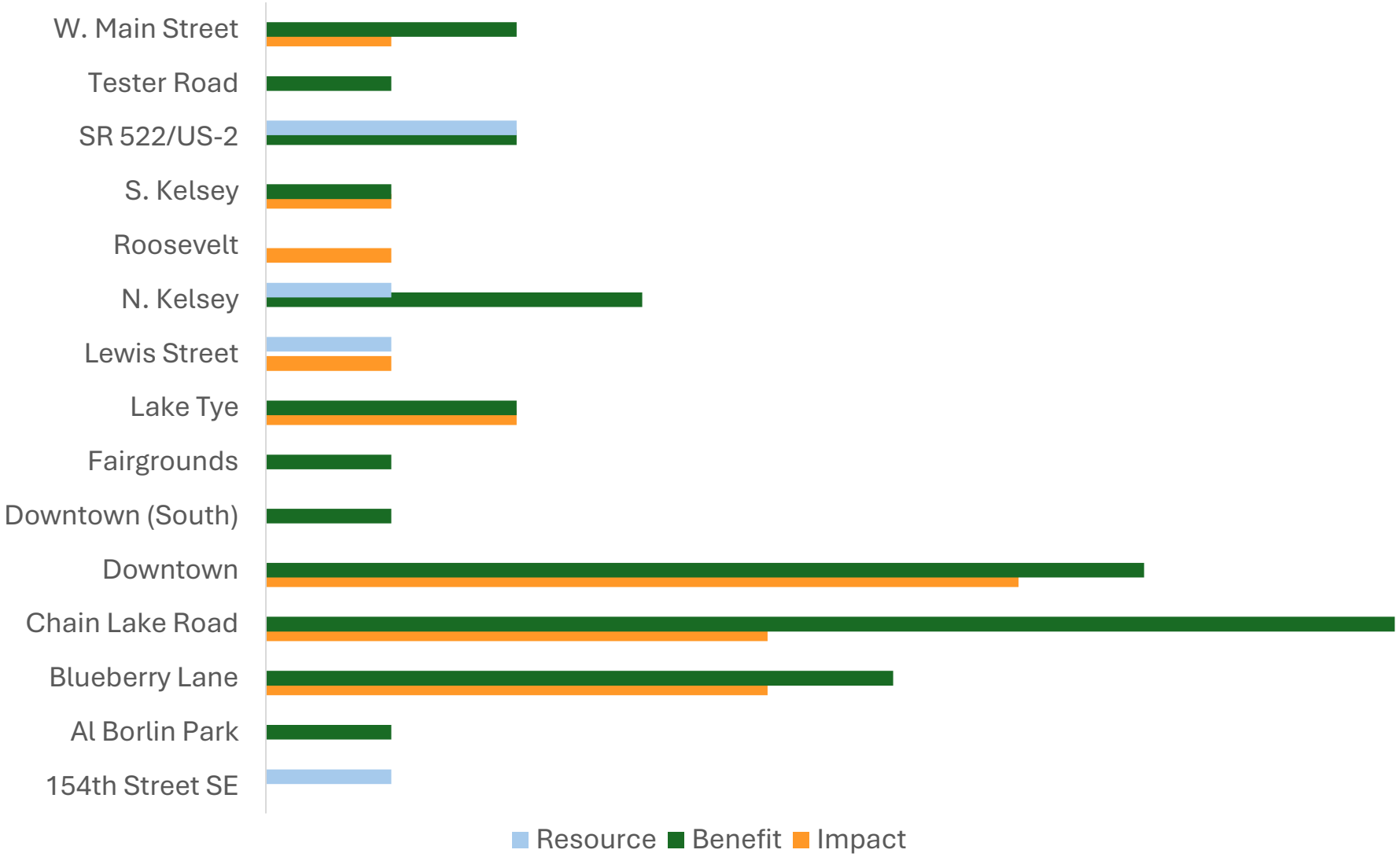
Natural Environment



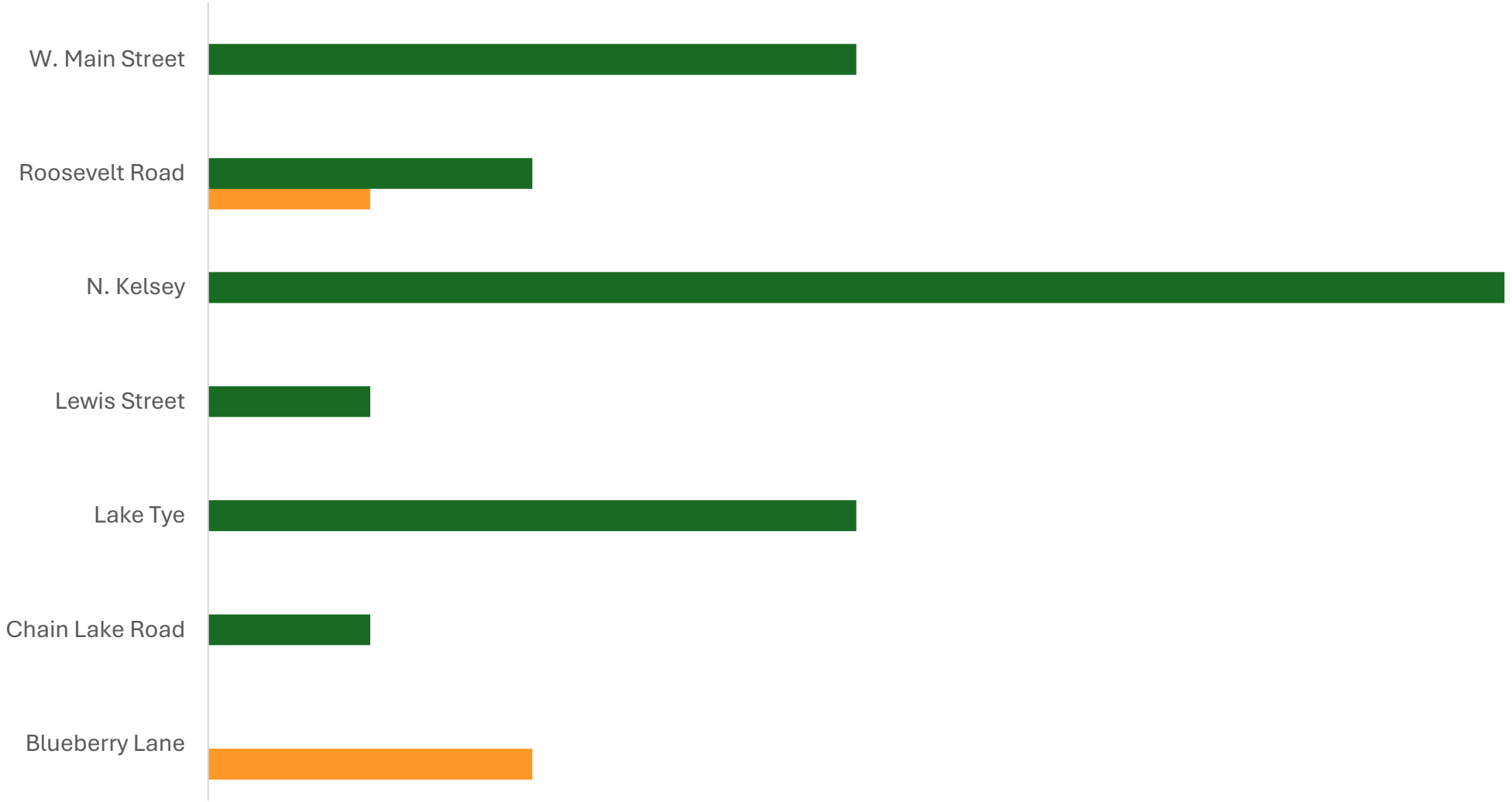
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space



Transportation



Employment


W. Main Street
Roosevelt Road
N. Kelsey
Lewis Street
Lake Tye
Chain Lake Road
Blueberry Lane
Benefit
Impact

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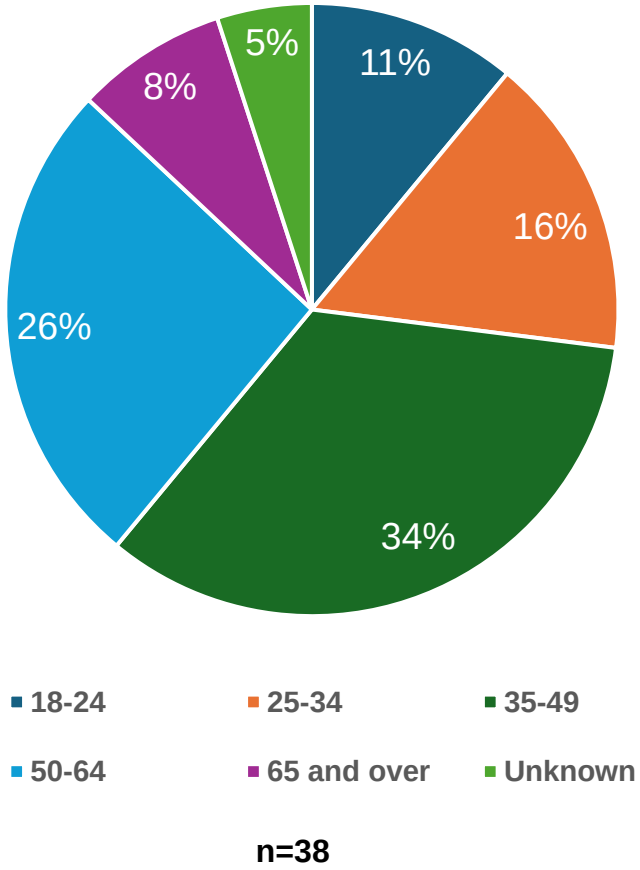
Consider.it Survey Results

Online Goals and Policies Forum

- **Platform Used:** Consider.it
- **Purpose:** Receive input and feedback on long-term guiding principles and goals that would guide policies and investments throughout the City.
- **Participation:**
  - 37 total participants
  - 522 opinions shared
  - 153 written comments

Online Survey Demographics



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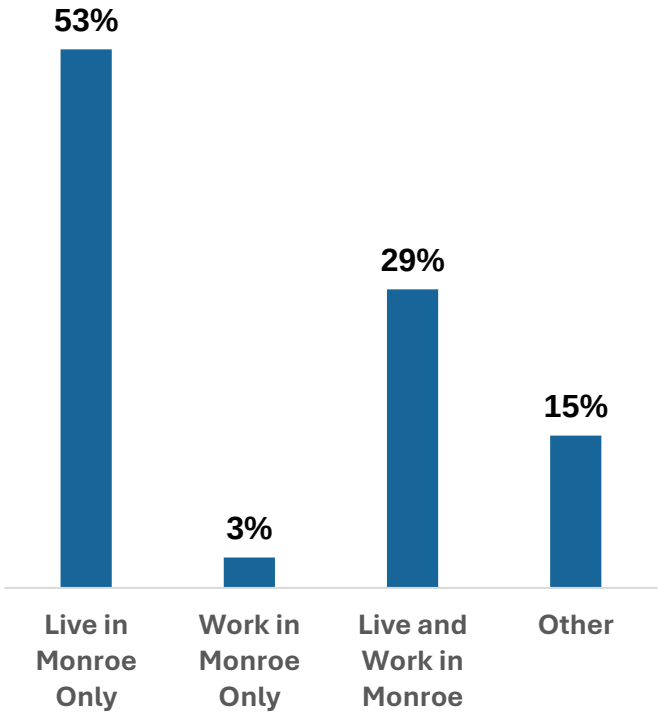

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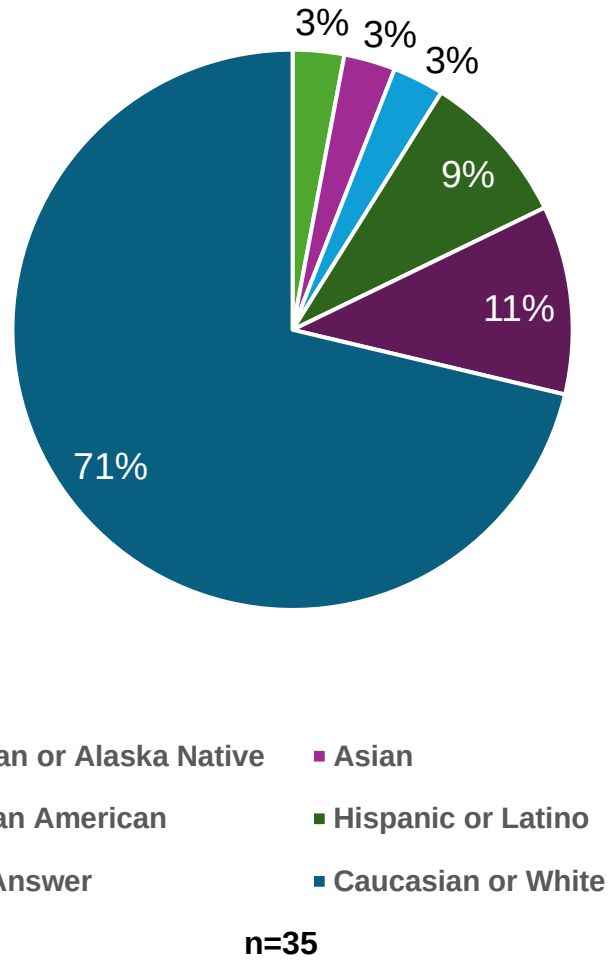

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Guiding Principles

Local and Community Driven

Monroe is a community of people that support locally owned businesses, locally made products, arts, and culture. All residents support one another to grow and flourish in Monroe.

3/18/2024 20 opinions 2 pros & cons

Connected and Active

Monroe strives for interconnected neighborhoods where people of all abilities can access services, parks, and community gathering places through a variety of travel options. Safe and

3/18/2024 21 opinions 8 pros & cons

Safe and Accessible

Monroe is a diverse and welcoming community where everyone feels safe, and everyone feels they belong. We aspire for all to have access to safe, dependable, efficient services,

3/18/2024 20 opinions 3 pros & cons

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Guiding Principles

Affordable and Diverse Housing

In Monroe, everyone has a place to call home. Monroe residents have a wide range of incomes and diverse housing needs that may change over time. Monroe will have housing

3/18/2024 19 opinions 7 pros & cons

Equity-Centered

Monroe is a community that is a safe place for all, where everyone feels at home, and everyone feels they belong. Equity is central in achieving Imagine Monroe as it addresses

3/18/2024 18 opinions 3 pros & cons

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Guiding Principles Feedback

- All the Guiding Principles scored **positively**, except for #5.
- Guiding Principle #5. Equity Centered
  - Received a total score of – 3.9, and an average score of -0.22
  - Range is from -1 to 1; with 0 being neutral
  - Some of the comment included concerns over DEI and equity-centered planning “creating unequal outcomes and favoring some over others”

Land Use

Goal 1. Support and manage development to implement the Imagine Monroe Vision.

This looks like:

- Promoting the development of neighborhood commercial centers;

5/7/2024 20 opinions 5 pros & cons

Goal 2. Create places that provide housing, retail, and urban services that are accessible without a car.

This looks like:

- Prioritizing development in Downtown and North Kelsey areas.

5/7/2024 23 opinions 7 pros & cons

Goal 3. Connect land use with a multimodal transportation system that focuses on creating walkable and vibrant neighborhoods.

This looks like:

- Integrating parking facilities in the Downtown area;

5/7/2024 21 opinions 6 pros & cons

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Land Use

Goal 4. Manage open space and natural habitats to improve the environment and reduce conflicts with development.

This looks like:

- Encouraging buildings to be set back away from slopes to maintain slope stability;

5/7/2024 23 opinions 6 pros & cons

Goal 5. Balance future annexation interest with protection of the natural environment.

This looks like:

- Evaluating how proposed annexations align with the preservation of natural features

5/7/2024 21 opinions 4 pros & cons

Goal 6. Encourage cooperation and collaboration between government entities and the community to ensure effective and transparent governance.

This looks like:

- Conducting regular evaluations to assessment the effectiveness and alignment of

5/7/2024 18 opinions 2 pros & cons

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Land Use Feedback

- Goals 1-3 had total scores below zero, although average scores were more neutral
  - Goal 1 scored a total of -5.52
  - Goal 2 scored a total of -3.73
  - Goal 3 scored a total of -0.96
- Some comments included:
  - Concern for displacement for infill
  - The need of a car where transit isn’t available or utilized
- Most participants felt that Goals 4-6 were “more important”

Housing

Goal 1. Encourage a diversity of housing types in Monroe.

This looks like:

- Allowing a variety of smaller housing types, like tiny homes, ADUs, cottage housing,

3/18/2024 23 opinions 8 pros & cons

Goal 2. Support the development of housing that meets the needs of all people living in Monroe.

This looks like:

- Identifying barriers for low- to moderate-income housing;

3/18/2024 21 opinions 4 pros & cons

Goal 3. Promote housing production in close proximity to employment, services, and transportation options.

This looks like:

- Promoting mixed-use development that blends uses of buildings near Downtown and

3/18/2024 19 opinions 5 pros & cons

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Housing

Goal 4. Enhance the living conditions of housing and elevate the quality of the social and physical surroundings.

This looks like:

- Promoting energy-efficient housing design to reduce utility costs;

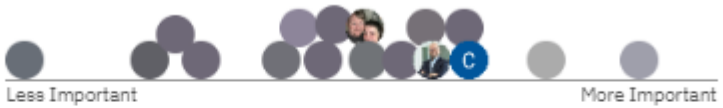
3/18/2024 19 opinions 1 pro or con

Goal 5. Minimize the involuntary displacement of people from their communities as the city grows and changes.

This looks like:

- Conducting a trends analysis to identify initial shifts in neighborhoods and rental price

5/7/2024 17 opinions 4 pros & cons



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Housing Feedback

- Goal 4. Enhance the living conditions of housing and elevate the quality of the social and physical surroundings
  - Participants are more neutral about this goal
- Goals 1, 2, 3, and 5 all trended as “less important”
  - Oppose: Concerns over too much housing creating traffic congestion, removing the small-town feel, and economic displacement
  - Support: More diversity of housing could create ownership opportunities. Positive sentiment for diverse housing types with quicker permit processing.

Economic Development

Goal 1. Be a great place to do business.

City Services and Economic Development strategies strengthen and communicate Monroe's positive business climate.

5/9/2024 18 opinions 2 pros & cons

Goal 2. Provide equitable local business and entrepreneurship support.

Help small, local, minority, women, and independently-owned businesses to found and flourish in Monroe.

5/9/2024 16 opinions 1 pro or con

Goal 3. Cultivate Monroe's welcoming identity and expand opportunities for a diverse workforce.

Create a supportive environment that prioritizes the needs of families, ensures broad and durable access to economic opportunity, and maintains Monroe's high quality of life.

5/9/2024 18 opinions 3 pros & cons

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Economic Development

Goal 4. Be an outdoor and adventure destination.

Invest in and leverage outdoor and recreation assets, and promote and market Monroe in order to attract businesses, people, and visitors.

5/9/2024 19 opinions 4 pros & cons

Goal 5. Establish thriving and accessible centers and commercial areas throughout Monroe as vibrant retail hubs and community gathering places.

Plan and grow pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use hubs in designated centers, including Downtown Monroe and the North Kelsey Subarea, and in other commercial areas such as the

5/9/2024 17 opinions 2 pros & cons

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Economic Development Feedback

- Goals 1 and Goal 4 received strong support
- Opinions we divided on Goal 2 (Provide equitable local business and entrepreneurship support)

Transportation

Goal 1. Provide and promote multimodal transportation infrastructures that coincide with need, growth, and long-term objectives.

This looks like:

- Coordinating active transportation and transit connections with higher-density and

5/20/2024 16 opinions 5 pros & cons

Goal 2. Plan for the types, quality, and quantity of housing and commercial development to assure land use compatibility, enhance neighborhood character, and facilitate Monroe's long-term sustainability.

This looks like:

- Directing new housing and employment development near areas with sufficient

5/20/2024 13 opinions 2 pros & cons

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Transportation

Goal 3. Provide multimodal means of transportation in a safe, compatible, and efficient manner for people of all ages and abilities.

This looks like:

- Identifying areas that need transportation improvements or services more than

5/20/2024 12 opinions 2 pros & cons

Goal 4. Support the local and regional economy with timely transportation system investments.

This looks like:

- Recognizing the connection to the region through intermodal transportation hubs; and

5/20/2024 14 opinions 5 pros & cons

Goal 5. Protect Monroe's environment and natural resources, while supporting the health, safety, welfare, recreational needs, and economic well-being of current and future generations.

This looks like:

- Supporting measures that protect the climate (like, renewable energy and greenhouse

5/20/2024 13 opinions 2 pros & cons

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Transportation

Goal 6. Provide and maintain an inventory of locally-owned multimodal transportation facilities and identify regional transportation service needs.

This looks like:

- Establishing Level of Service (LOS) standards for state routes;

5/20/2024 13 opinions 3 pros & cons

Goal 7. Secure funding to ensure an adequate multimodal transportation network that meets the City's Level of Service (LOS) policy.

This looks like:

- Maintaining at least a six-year Capital Facilities Plan to anticipate the financial needs of

5/20/2024 11 opinions 3 pros & cons

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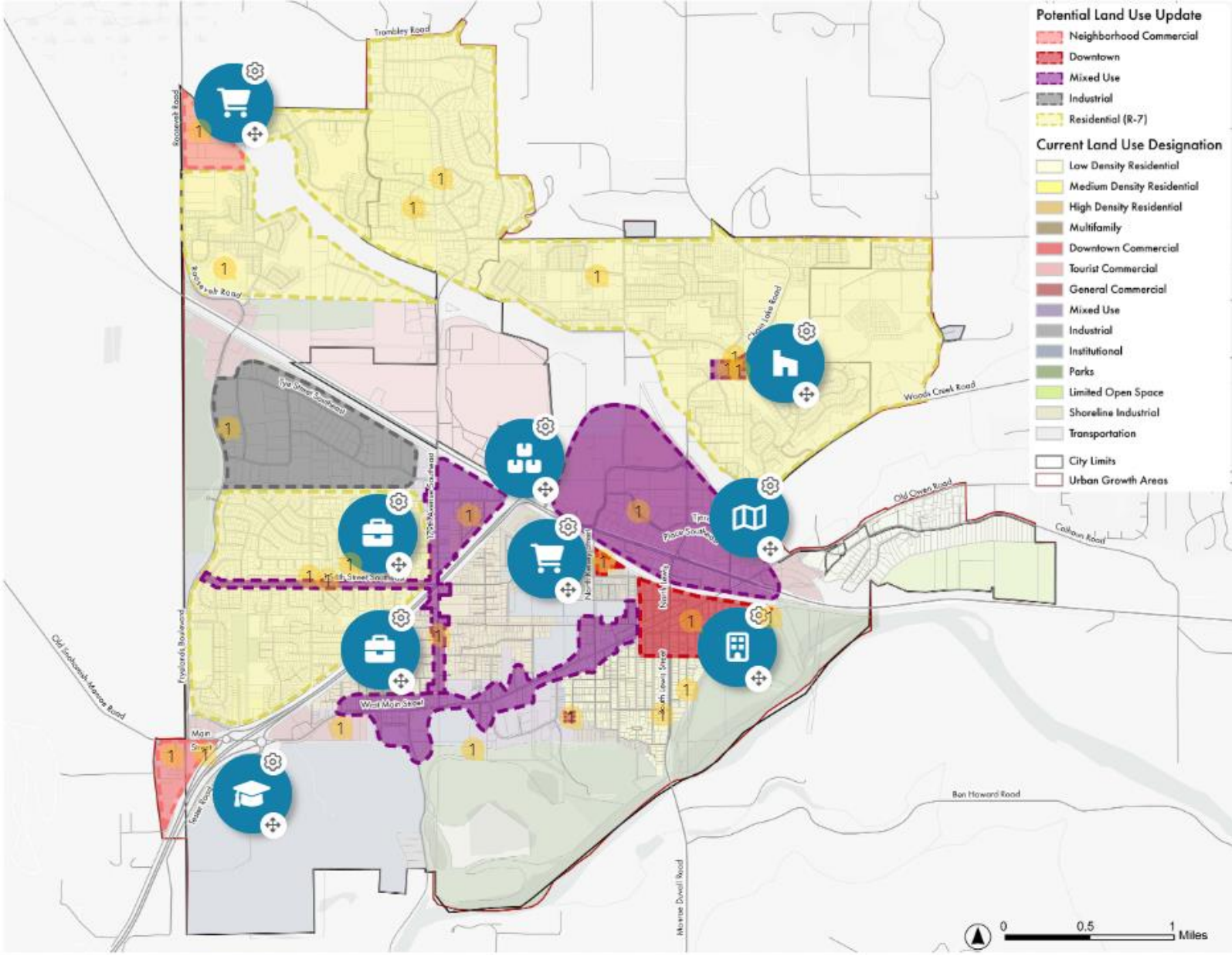
Transportation Feedback

Participants generally fell in the middle, not feeling strongly one way or the other for the transportation-related goals

Map-Based Feedback

One participant provided comments on the potential map changes, most related to questioning whether the options were realistic



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To Read More Comments…

All comments and opinions are made available to the public. To read more in-depth responses, please visit the survey website at:

https://monroe2044.consider.it/

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Phase 2 Engagement: Community Priorities and Values